Stalin Suffers Stroke, Condition Held Serious by Moscow

(See Story on Page 6)

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Some Clean-up Seen, But Shops Still Have Smutty Books on Sale

By FRED C. SELBY
(Mercury Staff Writer)

Magazines, pocket books and "comics" that Pottstown ministers consider smutty still can be bought in mid-borough stores, if the buyer doesn't mind feeling as if he had smallpox.

This conclusion could be drawn yesterday from a survey of what's being sold in drug stores, five-and-tens, cigar stores and luncheonettes.

It was obvious during the survey that many borough store owners have, since the campaign against smutty literature began nearly two months ago, made an active effort to "clean up."

This was particularly true of stores with a family trade, such as drug stores. In one High street drug store, four racks normally devoted to the less highly respectable form of magazine were nearly half empty yesterday.

What was left is not the true type of literature that members of a Pottstown Ministerial association committee studying the problem of smutty reading matter have produced as examples of what they're talking about.

But in four of the ten stores checked, there were magazines that were similar or identical to the magazines that ministers on the committee had brought to a meeting with magazine distributors the past month.

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In one store, on shelves clearly visible from High street, there were 31 love-type "comic" books. In an-

(Continued on Page Five)

BOROUGH GETS $5000 IN TAX FROM TRANSFER

Real Estate Levy Affects Exchange of Doehler Property

The borough got a $5000 windfall yesterday.

The sum is from the borough's 1 percent real estate transfer tax on the $500,129 of Doehler-Jarvis division real estate in Pottstown that was transferred yesterday to its new parent firm, National Lead company.

Altogether, Doehler's transferred $2,756,662 in real estate to National Lead, but $2,256,533 of it is for the property and new plant being built in West Pottsgrove township.

West Pottsgrove has no real estate transfer tax, but the State has a 1 percent levy, from which it is getting $27,566 on the total transaction.

* * *

DOEHLER'S, WHICH officially became a division of National Lead the past week, actually received only the token $1 consideration in the transfer, because National Lead is taking over Doehler's assets through a stock exchange.

But under tax law, such a token payment cannot be used as the real estate's value. The $2,756,662 valuation was that agreed upon under the terms of Doehler's merger with National Lead.

The sum represents only Doehler

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Discussion Series On Missionary Work Will Start Tonight

"Sefari to Africa" will be the theme of a series of missionary study meetings beginning tonight at First Presbyterian church.

Sponsored by the Women's association, the sessions will continue each Wednesday night of this month at 7 o'clock.

A different film strip or motion picture dealing with African life will be shown each week. Tonight's strip is called "African Panorama."

Robert Bower will lead "Palaver I," the first meeting, tonight, and Mrs. Bower will have charge of the devotions. The palaver (African word for discussion meeting) is sponsored by Circle I of the Women's association.

* * *

NEXT WEEK Circle 2 will sponsor the palaver, at which the film "African Cousins" will be shown. Raymond Garvine will lead the discussion and Mrs. Richard Robertson Jr. will be in charge of devotions.

On March 18 the film "We Hold These Truths" will be shown at

(Continued on Page Five)

THE WEATHER

For Eastern Pennsylvania: Today, cloudy, windy and milder with showers. Tomorrow, generally fair, windy and colder at night.

42 High — Mercury Antics — 32 Low

TEMPERATURE EXTREMES

Local temperatures yesterday and early this morning were:

4 a. m.	32	4 p. m.	39
5 a. m.	32	5 p. m.	39
6 a. m.	33	6 p. m.	39
7 a. m.	35	7 p. m.	39
8 a. m.	36	8 p. m.	39
9 a. m.	37	9 p. m.	40
10 a. m.	38	10 p. m.	41
11 a. m.	39	11 p. m.	41
12 m.	40	12 p. m.	42
1 p. m.	41	1 a. m.	42
2 p. m.	41	2 a. m.	42
3 p. m.	40	3 a. m.	42

BOTTLE SALES FELL IN STATE LIQUOR STORES

But Higher Prices Meant More Money Spent For Less Liquor

TREND SEEN THROUGHOUT AREA, BREAKDOWN SHOWS

Residents of Pottstown and most other area communities having State Liquor stores drank fewer bottles of liquor the past year than they did in 1951, but paid more for them.

This conclusion could be drawn yesterday from figures on six area stores released in Harrisburg yesterday by the State Liquor Control board.

In the past year, $779,737 was spent at the liquor store in the borough, compared with the $762,376 spent in 1951. The totals include taxes.

A total of 247,000 bottles was sold by the Pottstown store in 1952, compared with the 255,101 of the previous year.

Pottstown buyers paid an average of $3.15 a bottle.

* * *

THE ONLY area stores that reversed the trend were East Greenville, which sold less in dollars than in 1951; and Birdsboro and

(Continued on Page Twelve)

Here's a sample of publications that were on sale in High street stores yesterday, nearly two months after the campaign against smut began. Although four stores surveyed had such publications for sale, several others had made a serious effort to weed them out. The magazines here are typical of those cited by Pottstown ministers as objectionable. The pocket book is an example of lurid covers being put on all kinds of modern novels.

Clubs Urged to Help Free Enterprise

Pottstown Chamber of Commerce and borough service clubs were advised last night how to maintain the free enterprise system through leadership provided by civic organizations.

Four hundred men and women were present at the annual banquet of the groups at the Eagles home association when H. K. M. Murphy, a director of the United States Chamber of Commerce, delivered his talk.

Those present were members of the following service clubs in addition to Chamber of Commerce: American Business club, Kiwanis, Lions, Optimist, Rotary, Business and Professional Women and Soroptomist.

"Civic groups provide ideas for American progress by creating a pool of thoughts and using concerted action that an individual cannot do," Murphy said.

He said by joining a service club and becoming an active part of the organization, a person contributes toward stemming the flow of Communism.

* * *

"FREE ENTERPRISE is a problem," he went on. "Strong

(Continued on Page Twelve)

250 Children See Book Fair Activities

More than 250 children took in the Book Fair yesterday in the Pottstown YWCA gymnasium.

The Fair will continue through Saturday. Yesterday afternoon a children's dance group from the Price studio put on a performance for more than 100 Pottstown youngsters.

Last night at 7 o'clock, Joanne Banks, pupil at the Pottstown Senior High school, gave a reading.

This afternoon at 4:15 o'clock, a quartet from The Hill school glee club will sing several selections and tonight at 7 o'clock the film "The Princess and the Dragon" will be shown.

Hosts and hostesses for yesterday's activities included Mrs. Francis G. Armstrong and Mrs. Ralph C. Johnson, Hill School Woman's club, and Mrs. Maurice Miller, Mrs. William Prince, Mrs.

(Continued on Page Twelve)

Wooden Spoon in Oven Gives Woman Fire Scare

A wooden spoon sent the Philadelphia Steam Fire Engine company to the home of Mrs. Sara Dawson, 553 Kenneth avenue, yesterday morning.

The spoon was left in a baking tin that went into the oven. The spoon ignited and sent smoke through the kitchen, leading her to think the kitchen was on fire.

Loss: one spoon.

Building Costs Increased by Vandalism

By NORMAND POIRIER
(Mercury Staff Writer)

Unbridled vandalism and petty thievery is costing Pottstown contractors and builders thousands of dollars every year.

In what several contractors called a "frightening situation," juveniles — reportedly both boys and girls — have been wreaking havoc under cover of darkness wherever new buildings are going up.

The destruction of private property coupled with wholesale petty thefts that magnify—over a period of a year—to grand larceny were brought into the open yesterday in a survey by the Mercury.

Not a single one of the building contractors contacted was able to say he hadn't felt the sting of the youthful "pranksters."

Several of the businessmen complained that the boys-will-be-boys tactics were far from laughable.

It was costing some of them as much as $2000 a year.

* * *

ALMOST EVERY trick in the book was reported by one contractor or another, from throwing paint on newly-finished floors and walls to diving through freshly-plastered ceilings.

The firm of Welsh and Renninger, builders, was the latest to feel the impact of vandalism.

A set of tile setter's tools and a bathroom fixture were stolen from a new housing development on Spruce street, between Lee avenue and Grace street.

The vandals also broke the top cover to a bathroom water tank. This took place Monday night.

But this isn't the first time it has happened to projects the firm was working on.

David G. Welsh said yesterday, "On one job I had kids throw stones through about $30 of window glass. And on another occasion somebody walked off with more than half a ton of cement in 100 pound bags.

"And there's always a little wood stealing, usually in such small amounts that you don't notice it rigth away. But when you add it up . . ."

* * *

ALLEN K. DAVIDHEISER, contractor and builder, did add it up and said vandalism and petty thefts cost him from $1500 to $2000 the past year.

"I could talk to you for hours on the problem of vandalism," he said yesterday.

"They've broken in my houses, upset buckets of paint and let it swish around on hardwood floors and new walls. And then they take paint brushes up the outside of the house for you."

"One time, "he went on, as though he did have a list of offenses that would last several hours, "they came around at night and took all the putty out of every window we'd puttied that day. Imagine that?

And on other occasions, Davidheiser said, they broke several hundred dollars worth of brick.

"That seems to be one of their pet tricks, knocking over piles of red bricks that cost 10 cents a piece and seeing how many they can break."

* * *

ANOTHER FAVORITE trick of the nighttime prowlers is to throw off protective tarpaulins.

"I lost $500 worth of sheet rock one time," he said, "because it was raining and the kids came along and cut the ropes holding the tarps down."

Speaking of petty thefts the Pottstown contractor said, "It isn't always petty. Early last year I had a run on lumber and before we knew it there were about 2000 feet of it gone. We found out,

(Continued on Page Six)

ALLEN K. DAVIDHEISER

HEARINGS SET FOR TODAY ON AREA GAMING

Seven Business Owners Will Face Charges In Schwenksville

The biggest single crackdown on gambling in Montgomery county business places in recent years will bring hearings this morning at 11 o'clock for seven Pottstown area men and women.

Warrants for the seven, proprietors of small businesses in Pottstown and vicinity, were issued by Justice of the Peace Walter Jarman, Schwenksville, who will conduct the hearings.

The warrants are a result of a raid by Jeffersonville State police the past week on the barn of Rufus R. Erb, 61, Frederick. Sgt. Thomas V. Devlin reported that 17 slot machines and 200 punchboards were seized.

The seven are charged with setting up the gambling devices. Erb, meanwhile, has posted $1500 bail for court appearance on charges of distributing gambling devices.

* * *

THE SEVEN have been notified of the charge against them and will be formally arrested today.

Pottstown Attorney Louis Sager

(Continued on Page Twelve)

Amvets Will Be Host As District Delegates Conduct Conference

Pottstown Amvets Post 23 will be host to more than 100 delegates of posts throughout the Southeastern Pennsylvania district at the semi-annual conference of the district Sunday.

A general conference of the 35 posts in the district will begin at the Amvets headquarters, 260 High street, at 2:30 p. m.

William R. Whitman, 218 Chestnut street, State commander of the veterans' organization will preside at the session.

He will also act as installation officer for new heads of the post who were elected at the February meeting.

Those who will be installed are Jack R. Strange, commander; Paul Lysoby, first vice commander; Frederick R. Nettles, second vice commander; Edward Poster, third vice commander; Richard Frain, adjutant, and Gerald

(Continued on Page Five)

Lamb Enters Plea For 60-Mile Limit On State Turnpike

President William F. Lamb Sr. of the Pottstown Auto club, yesterday joined others in recommending a 60-mile-per-hour speed limit for the 327-mile Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Lamb, who was invited to a public hearing today in Lancaster on the cause of the heavy death toll on the Turnpike, asserted last night, "Something must be done to reduce the deaths.

"Something must be done to stop the bloodshed. Why, it's worse than war."

Invited to today's meeting were representatives of the Keystone Automobile club and Pennsylvania Motor Federation (AAA) clubs.

Lamb said he will not be able

(Continued on Page Five)

Primary Slate Picked By West Pottsgrove GOP

West Pottsgrove Republican club last night selected candidates for the May 19 primary election.

Forty members of the club meeting at the home of Joseph Shemansky, 335 East Vine street, Stowe, picked the candidates. The offices and the men who will run for them on the Republican ticket if elected at the primary are:

Road commissioners: Charles Endy, Grosstown road; Elmer E. Hampton, Grosstown road, and Paul A. Smith, 15 East Elm street. Hampton is now in office.

School director: Fred Knopp, Grosstown road, an incumbent.

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Winner of 'Popular Fireman' Contest Named to Township Patrolman Post

Warren "Red" Knode, Gilbertsville, who once won a contest as the Pottstown area's most popular fireman, will start Saturday on a job on which popularity isn't always easy to retain.

He will be sworn in then by Justice of the Peace Ammon B. Mensch, Gilbertsville, as part-time patrolman in Douglass township, Montgomery county.

He said his principal job would be to assist Linwood Johnson in cracking down on speeding along Route 73 in Gilbertsville.

Knode was named to the post Monday night by the township supervisors.

* * *

"WE'RE GONNA try to run down these speeders," Knode reported. "They're really runnin' loose around here."

He expects to get a uniform and equipment within a week.

Knode, in addition to winning the popularity contest sponsored by The Mercury in the 1930's, has been a fire policeman for 30 years and was a bass drummer in Boyertown bands until his retirement the past Fall.

He will retain his job at Ern-Tex mills in Boyertown.

(Continued on Page Six)

2 Men Are Charged With Fire Violations

The two Pottstown men charged by Fire Chief Richard E. Lindauer with violating the borough fire code have been notified formally of the charges against them and given until this weekend to answer them.

This was reported yesterday by Justice of the Peace Richard H. Cadmus, of the Seventh ward, who issued warrants against Milton Wensel, 434 High street, and Charles Davis, Fourth and Johnson streets.

Wensel is charged with illegal storage of scrap behind his store. Davis is charged with operating two junkyards in violation of borough ordinance.

The two men have their choice of pleading guilty or requesting a hearing.

March Winds Blow

If it were June the grass would be green, the birds would be singing and Summer shirts would decorate every washline.

Pottstown dreamed about June, or July yesterday and then grumbled at Mother March, unpopular Sunday invader, who is making life miserable and promises no drastic changes.

It was windy and cold Sunday. It was windy, damp and

(Continued on Page Six)

WARREN B. ZERN

Blood Clot Causes Motorcyclist's Death In Pottstown Hospital

The 46-year-old motorcyclist whose right leg was sliced off above the knee in a crash with a car at Route 422 and Monocacy road, near Douglassville, this past Saturday, died in Pottstown hospital at 9 o'clock yesterday morning.

He is Arthur O. Deeter, Reading, whose leg was caught between the 'cycle and the front of a car driven by John A. Flannery, 18, of Brooke Manor, Birdsboro.

Dr. John C. Simpson, coroner's physician, reported after an autopsy in the hospital yesterday afternoon that Deeter died from a blood clot on the brain.

The physician explained, "Blood broke loose from around the seat of the amputation and struck the brain. It was the same thing as a stroke."

* * *

DR. SIMPSON said the way Deeter died "is not common."

(Continued on Page Six)

70 Enrol for 6-Week Course at 'University of Scouting'

Pottstown's "University of Scouting" opened last night with an enrolment of 70 men, women and boys.

Among those who began the six-week leadership training courses being held in the Senior High school building were troop committeemen, scoutmasters, cubmasters, den mother, explorer advisers, patrol leaders and assistant leaders.

The scout leaders will attend two-hour sessions in the course chosen by themselves each Tuesday night for the next five weeks.

Harold B. Rohn, Continental Scout district training chairman who is directing the school, said the courses, which are held annually, are designed to train new leaders for the Cub, Scout and Explorer units in the district.

He estimated that about 40 adults and 30 teenagers are taking the courses.

* * *

THE SCHOOL offers four courses of instruction, of which one is designed for the junior leaders and three for adults.

Courses and the instructors for each are:

Exploring, Robert Hartman, explorer adviser of Stowe post 106; Cubbing, James Undercoffler, former cubmaster of the Emmanuel Lutheran pack; Scouting, Leslie Essick, Continental district member at large; and Junior Leaders' Training course, George Leskowicz, scoutmaster of Linfield troop 1.

Each class meets in a separate classroom of the High school at 7:15 o'clock Tuesday night.

Textbooks for the courses are the standard manuals issued by the National Boy Scout council.

They include the Handbook for Patrol Leaders, Handbook for Scoutmasters, Handbook for Cubmasters and the Handbook for

(Continued on Page Twelve)

Boy Scouts Are Eager to Learn More

—*Mercury Staff Photo*

Pupils at the "University of Scouting," six-week training course for Boy Scout leaders which opened at the Pottstown Senior High school last night, pay close attention as instructor George Leskowicz (right), scoutmaster of Linfield troop 1, explains the use of their textbook — the Handbook for Patrol Leaders. Shown are (left to right) Harry Meitzler, John Geiser, James Hostetter, Richard Evans, David Harvey, Roger Sharpe, Ronald Frick, Robert Huzzard and Thomas Shaner. The school, which will meet for two hours, each Tuesday night at 7:15 o'clock offers four courses, three for adult leaders and officials and one for younger leaders in the various troops of the Pottstown area.

ON THE MAIN DRAG

RONALD GINCLEY
—wishing it were June.

ADDIE MINOTTO
—visiting a friend during working hours.

JOE DORI
—seeing an old friend while on leave.

MARY KURTZ
—receiving a disappointing 'phone call.

ROBERT FIORILLO
—talking about music.

ELIZABETH WILHELM
—quoting prices.

JOE CIORI
—happy to see the clock slow.

JEAN NOEL
—waiting for mail.

MR. AND MRS. ERNEST HURTER
—talking about the "good old days."

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